

State Fair of Texas to host college football game,  
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# The Dallas Post Tribune

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ISSN # 0746-7303

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VOLUME 76 NUMBER 3

SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR SINCE 1947

September 28 - October 4, 2023

# Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson switches to Republican Party

Though the mayor's position in Dallas is technically nonpartisan, Johnson joins Fort Worth Mayor Mattie Parker as one of two Republican mayors to lead a major Texas city.



Moderator Chad Hasty, left, speaks with Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson at The Texas Tribune Festival in Austin on Sept. 22, 2023. Photo Credit: **Eli Hartman/The Texas Tribune**

Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson, a longtime Democrat, is now a Republican — turning Dallas into the largest city in the country with a GOP mayor.

"Today I am changing my party affiliation," Johnson wrote in an op-ed published Friday in The Wall Street Journal. "Next spring, I will be voting in the Republican primary. When my career in elected office

ends in 2027 on the inauguration of my successor as mayor, I will leave office as a Republican."

Johnson served in the Texas Legislature for nine years as a Democrat before he was elected as Dallas mayor in 2019. Though the mayor's position is technically nonpartisan, Johnson joins Fort Worth Mayor Mattie Parker as one of two Republican mayors to lead a major

Texas city.

Johnson did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Johnson's switch came as little shock to Dallas political observers, who said he has been signaling for some time his leaning toward the GOP — and his distancing from Democrats.

Continue **Mayor** Page 3

## POLITICIS



Photo Credit: NNPA Files

# Judge Rules Trump Committed Fraud in Real Estate Empire's Rise

The deception involved inflating the value of assets and exaggerating Trump's net worth on official documents, which were instrumental in securing financing and executing lucrative deals.

By Stacy M. Brown

In a decision reverberating through the legal and political spheres, New York Judge Arthur Engoron ruled on Tuesday that former President Donald Trump engaged in fraudulent activities for years during the ascent of his real estate empire, eventually propelling him to fame and the White House.

Letitia James, the attorney general of New York,

filed a civil lawsuit, and the jury found that Trump and his company had orchestrated a widespread scheme to deceive financial institutions, insurers, and other stakeholders. The deception involved inflating the value of assets and exaggerating Trump's net worth on official documents, which were instrumental in

Continue **Fraud** Page 5

## BREAKING NEWS

# Dallas County Democrats Call on Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson to Resign



Photo Credit/Press Release (Dated: September 26, 2023)

DALLAS — In light of his recent public declaration that he is switching his party affiliation, the Dallas County Democratic Party is calling on Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson to resign and give the voters of Dallas the opportunity to choose a leader who will uphold their values in good faith. He knowingly portrayed himself as a lifelong Democratic voter and representative throughout his re-election campaign for mayor. Now, less than four months after being re-elected to his final term in office,

he has declared that he will govern the city as a Republican. This switch is the launch of a selfish and cynical strategy to get his next job at the expense of his current job, the one Dallas voters elected him to do. He is putting politics, and his resume, ahead of the people.

Over the last several days, we have heard from scores of angry voters who feel deceived and blindsided by the mayor's announcement. We urge

Continue **Party** Page 3



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# EDITORIAL PAGE

## Politics and Our Quality Of Life

By: Dr. John E. Warren, Publisher  
San Diego Voice & Viewpoint Newspaper



Dr. John E. Warren

Recently, the Publisher's monthly breakfast meeting of "Biscuits, Grits & Politics" was resumed after having been halted by the pandemic. The theme, Politics & Public Policy, offered an appropriate reminder that, "We the People" have a great deal of say in our quality of life and the selection of those who set the stan-

dards by which we live. With the shortage of housing for the unsheltered, food lines for the many still struggling with meeting their basic needs and the ongoing greed of landlords squeezing every renter for every possible dollar, we as a collective community cannot afford to be "non-political". As we learned at our recent Biscuits Grits & Politics, there are many issues we must come together and not only discuss, but also make some recommendations as to how our problems might be addressed in a more meaningful way.

Through discussions and activities like the weekly meeting of Black Men & Women United (BMWU), we have an avenue for dialogue and action. By way of example, when BMWU dis-

covered that we had schools with need of support and that a number of students were homeless, a pantry was created and members of the community involved with BMWU provided both time and resources to meet those student needs that needed to be addressed.

We must become as involved as some other ethnic communities have done. We must attend community meetings other than when we have a personal interest. Perhaps we could agree among ourselves how to share coverage of those items important to our collective interest. We must, above all, register to vote, for without a vote, we have no voice. And we must, for starters, be prepared to vote in the special November 7, 2023 election to fill the cur-

rent vacancy on the San Diego County Board of Supervisors.

Yes. Politics are about choices and if you don't participate, someone else will make choices for each of us. Ultimately, we are personally responsible for the quality of life or the lack thereof that each of us have every day. We ask you to start your involvement by sharing your ideas, questions and concerns with this newspaper and we, in turn, will share your views with our readers both in print and online. In the future, we will publish a list of vacancies on boards and commissions that we, as a community, should look at.

Please help us shape and improve our quality of life and not be afraid of the word "politics" in the process.

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## House Republicans Are Holding America Hostage As The Government Shutdown Draws Near

By James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.



James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.

Break up to make up that's all we do. Those words are from a popular song made famous by the singing group, The Stylistics. If you are a member of the old school, you know that song by heart.

These lyrics apply to the Republicans in the US House of Representatives. Some days they have made up and other days they have broken up. Right now, they have broken up and are in disarray.

As we know the government will shut down on September 30th if new legislation is not passed to keep it open. House Republicans are like political nomads. They are roaming around the House floor with various agendas none of which are moving America forward.

We are just at a standstill as the hardliners, the moderates and the conservatives cannot see eye to eye. It is their way or no way.

The Republicans control the House of Representatives. The problem is they cannot reach consensus on legislation. The House GOP doesn't have the necessary leadership. Kevin McCarthy, Speaker of the House has been unable thus far to get a bill on the House floor for consideration.

If you recall, he was elected as House Speaker on the 15th ballot. Speaker McCarthy had to make several concessions which made him a political pawn. That is my opinion.

In some ways, he has what I call a puppet speaker-ship as he is being pulled and pushed in different directions. His political philosophy has been mangled and maligned. His future as the Speaker is questionable. This is my opinion.

Recently, he proposed without a consensus that President Biden be subjected to an impeachment inquiry. While I am just a voting American, let me suggest that Speaker

McCarthy champion a bill that will prevent a government shutdown.

We know that McCarthy is a Trump ally. At this moment, Mr. Trump is in a legal bind and Mr. McCarthy is in a legislative bind. I do hope that Mr. Speaker talks to some non-Trump supporters on the Hill who will give him some solutions to avoid this possible shutdown.

What happens if the government shuts down? It is noted that House Representatives and Senators will still be paid. Men and women in the military will not be paid. However, they will receive backpay when the government re-opens.

Those receiving Social Security checks will continue to receive them according to Kathleen Romig, Director of Social Security and Disability Policy at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Yet it is still an embarrassment for the United States of America to be in this situation because we cannot handle our finances. Other countries are watching us, and it is not a good look.

The next week looms large as the House of Representatives with its Republican majority tries to pass a bill that the Senate too will sign. Is this too daunting for them to do? Reaching across the aisle to Democrats may be an option for them to explore.

As citizens, we must contact our congressmen and congresswomen to urge them to stop this harsh partisanship and get a bill passed for we the people. This inaction by them is causing depression and anxiety for many people. It is unnecessary and unwarranted.

The political pendulum currently is not swinging in our direction. We are caught in a spin cycle of mistrust. Doubt about the effectiveness of our leaders is growing each day. It will only get worse if there is a government shutdown. It is a certainty that we will be the folks hurt the most if this happens.

If you are a Republican in the House of Representatives with a conscious of good will and moral courage, you must lead the charge to keep the US government open for business.

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# RELIGIOUS/NEWS

## THE REVELATION OF THE GREAT MYSTERY

EPHESIANS 3:1-13

By Rev. Johnny Calvin Smith

In verses 11-22 of Ephesians chapter 2, Paul had just discussed the great truth that Jews and Gentiles have been unified in Christ. Now, in Ephesians 3:1-13, Paul will discuss the subject of the mystery that was unrevealed in prior dispensations but now revealed during this Age of Grace (Church Age). Ephesians 3:1-13 may be outlined as follows: I. The Reception of the Mystery – Ephesians 3:1-4; II. The Explanation Regarding the Mystery – Ephesians 3:5-9; III. The Purpose for the Revelation of the Mystery – Ephesians 3:10-13.

**I. The Reception of the Mystery – Ephesians 3:1-4**  
Paul begins verse 1 by discussing the fact that he was a prisoner of Jesus Christ in Rome due to his service for Christ. Paul served as a faithful apostle to the Gentiles (II Timothy 1:11-12). Paul's faithful ministry among the Gentiles created bitter opposition from the Jews that led to Paul being assailed in Jerusalem and put on trial in

Caesarea and Rome. Paul is about to discuss the great mystery God revealed to him.

In verse 2, Paul reminded the Gentiles of his special ministry to them referring to – “the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward.” The word “dispensation” refers to a stewardship or administrative position. In His grace, God had given Paul a commission to preach the gospel to the Gentiles (Galatians 2:7-9). Entrusted with a great stewardship in verses 3-4, Paul wanted to convey to the Gentiles his understanding in the mystery regarding Christ.

Paul had discussed the mystery previously to the Gentiles. For example, in Ephesians 1:9-10, Paul spoke of God's plan to draw all things together under the headship of Christ; and in Ephesians 2:11-22, Paul revealed God's plan to make Jews and Gentiles one in Christ. Paul's insight was not his own; God had shown him this new knowledge.

**II. The Explanation Regarding the Mystery –**

**Ephesians 3:5-9**  
In verse 5, Paul stated that “in other ages the mystery was not made known unto the sons of men as it is now revealed unto His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.” This mystery that was once concealed is now made known! None of this mystery was understood in the past. The apostles and prophets were set apart and enlightened by the Holy Spirit to make known the great mystery.

The essence of the mystery in verse 6 was not simply that Gentiles would be included in God's plan of redemption. That had been revealed to Abraham (Genesis 12:3; Galatians 3:8) and repeated in various statements and examples throughout the Old Testament. The revelation of the mystery would be that Gentile believers would be included in His plan on an equal basis with elect Jews in a spiritual body called the church.

In explaining this new relationship, Paul revealed some great spiritual truths: consist-

ing first, that Gentiles are “fellow heirs” (v. 6). They have an inheritance that they had no right to by birth. Second, they are “fellow members of the same body.” Gentiles are joined with Jews in the spiritual body of Christ. Third, they are fellow partakers of the “promise in Christ”, a promise from which Gentiles before were excluded. This is the new relationship that Paul had already disclosed or revealed in Ephesians 2:11-22. Nowhere did the Old Testament speak of “one body or one new man.”

The church, you remember, came into existence on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4), when the baptism of the Holy Spirit first occurred (Acts 1:5; 11:15-17). Now, the Holy Spirit baptized all saints, regardless of ethnic background or societal status, into this one spiritual body (I Cor. 12:13). This great mystery is only revealed and received through the gospel.

In verses 7-8, Paul declared that he was chosen to reveal this great mystery to the

Gentiles. Paul mentioned that he didn't deserve this ministry; however, he did receive it “according to the gift of the grace of God” (v. 7). By His grace, God had gifted Paul specially for his ministry to the Gentiles. It was also a manifestation of “the effectual working of His power” (v. 7). Paul recognized in his life and ministry the operation of the same power that had raised and exalted Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:19-21; Col. 1:29).

In verse 8a, Paul revealed throughout his life a profound sense of unworthiness. He saw himself as the “least of the Apostles” (I Cor. 15:9) and “the chief of all sinners” (I Tim. 1:15) because he had persecuted the church before his conversion. Paul saw his ministry to the Gentiles as a special grace from God (vv. 8b-9). He was able to tell them of “the unsearchable riches of Christ.” Paul was also commissioned in verse 9 “to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery.” He was to enlighten men concerning the “stewardship of the mystery previously hidden.” This plan that Paul was to unfold came from the One “who created all things.” As the material world came from Him, so did His redemptive plan!

**III. The Purpose for the Revelation of the Mystery – Ephesians 3:10-13**  
Having His mystery revealed, God's intent is that

angelic beings, including even fallen angels (Ephesians 6:12) would stand in astonishment before this Divine wisdom. Paul described the church as the manifold wisdom of God. Paul described God's wisdom as “manifold” which means “many colored.” No wonder the angels stand amazed at it!

The multifaceted wisdom of God in His redemptive plan is being worked out as angels stand in astonishment! God's plan to display His wisdom is according to His eternal purpose. Whatever aspect of God's eternal purpose we observe, Jesus Christ is at its center.

In verses 12-13, as believers, we can approach God in Jesus' righteousness and authority. In Christ Jesus, we have access! This word “access” suggests that all barriers to God have been removed and we are introduced into His presence. We can come not in fear but in assurance that He accepts us! This is all possible because of our faith in Christ.

In verse 13, Paul did not want the believers to lose heart because of his imprisonment. Paul did indeed suffer as God's instrument in proclaiming this mystery; however, before claiming failure, Paul revealed a cause to render glory, for it was an indication that the gospel achieved its purpose (v. 13).

*May God Bless!*

Continued **Mayor** Page 1

"This is one of the worst kept secrets in the world of politics," said Vinny Minichillo, a Dallas-area Republican consultant. "This has been coming down for a long time."

State Rep. John Bryant, a Dallas Democrat, took to the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, to quip about Johnson's announcement.

"Switching parties? I didn't know he was a Democrat," Bryant wrote.

In his op-ed, Johnson made the case for how his vision for Dallas aligns with the GOP, noting his support for law enforcement, low property taxes and fostering a business-friendly environment.

Over the course of his mayoral tenure, Johnson has enthusiastically backed anti-crime initiatives and developed a strong bond with Dallas Police Chief Eddie Garcia. He won reelection without opposition in May after sewing up the city's business donor class, who often lean Republican, as well as the Dallas Police Association, the city's police union.

"Mayors and other local elected officials have failed to make public safety a priority or to exercise fiscal restraint," Johnson wrote in the op-ed. "Most of these local leaders are proud Democrats who view cities as laboratories for liberalism rather than as havens for opportunity and free enterprise."

After his reelection this year, Johnson invited Texas' two Republican U.S. senators, John Cornyn and Ted

Cruz, to attend his inauguration — which some observers complained improperly injected partisanship into a nonpartisan space.

Earlier this week, Johnson, along with four other Dallas council members, voted against the city's \$4.8 billion budget because he believed it did not sufficiently cut the city's property tax rate. Cutting property taxes is a darling issue for the state's top Republicans.

"Too often, local tax dollars are spent on policies that exacerbate homelessness, coddle criminals and make it harder for ordinary people to make a living," Johnson wrote in the op-ed. "And too many local Democrats insist on virtue signaling — proposing half-baked government programs that aim to solve every single societal ill — and on finding new ways to thumb their noses at Republicans at the state or federal level. Enough. This makes for good headlines, but not for safer, stronger, more vibrant cities."

Johnson's party switch immediately makes him one of the most prominent Black Republicans in the country, a list that also includes South Carolina senator and presidential candidate Tim Scott and Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron. Black voters still vote overwhelmingly Democratic, though the GOP has made gains among Black men in recent years.

Dallas is solidly Democratic, however. Dallas County went heavily for Joe Biden over Donald Trump in the 2020 presidential election, with Biden carrying the county by more

than 30 percentage points. Some local politicians said Johnson's decision puts him out of step with the city's voters.

"I don't believe that it sets the tone for where the priorities are," Dallas City Council Member Adam Bazaldua said. "In fact, that's why I believe it would have been nice for voters to have the opportunity of knowing that party affiliation prior to going to the ballot box in May."

Politicos interpreted Johnson's switch as a precursor to a potential bid for statewide office — which Democrats have been locked out of for decades.

"You've got to be a Democrat to win in Dallas," said Cal Jillson, a political science professor at Southern Methodist University. "You've got to be a Republican to win in Texas."

Johnson's party switch is a further indictment of the state of the Democratic Party in Texas, said Minichillo, the GOP strategist.

"This is certainly a smart move for his career," Minichillo said. "If you want to stay in Texas politics, you want to have the 'R' by your name."

Johnson didn't mention his party switch as he spoke for about an hour during a Texas Tribune panel event Friday morning in Austin. Johnson noted the nonpartisan nature of his office and said he wants to see a more conservative approach to how Dallas spends its money, arguing that it's currently inefficient and the city could cut plenty of welfare programs that he believes

only a minuscule amount of people use. Polling shows that most Dallasites want lower taxes, he said.

"I don't even know what these services are that some people are referring to that they're just so essential to poor people in the city," he said. "I don't know what they're using."

Texas Republicans were quick to embrace Johnson as one of their own.

"Texas is getting more Red every day," Gov. Greg Abbott wrote on X. "He's pro law enforcement & won't tolerate leftist agendas."

"To my friend and former colleague, welcome to the Republican Party!" Texas House Speaker Dade Phelan, a Beaumont Republican, said on X. "Mayor [Johnson] is absolutely right. Conservative policies are the key to safe, thriving, and successful cities. His leadership is a shining example of that. Great news."

The Texas Democratic Party's top officials, meanwhile, responded to the news with pure venom.

"In a city that deserves dedicated leadership, Mayor Johnson has been an ineffective and truant mayor, not only disconnected from Democratic values, but unable to even be an effective messenger for conservative local policy," Gilberto Hinojosa and Shay Wyrick Cathey, Texas Democratic Party chair and vice-chair, wrote in a joint statement. "This feeble excuse for democratic representation will fit right in with Republicans — and we are grateful that he can no longer tarnish the brand and

values of the Texas Democratic Party."

Democrats took Johnson's announcement as a betrayal — though perhaps not an unexpected one.

"It's really unfortunate to see Mayor Johnson switch parties but also to turn his back on the electorate that's gotten him this far in his political career," said Kardal Coleman, chair of the Dallas County Democratic Party. "This is no surprise to us. It's the worst kept secret in Texas politics, but he's choosing his personal ambitions over the good of the whole of Texas."

In an interview with Tribune co-founder Evan Smith on Friday, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said he was "disappointed that Eric feels as though he has to leave a thriving ship to get on a sinking one."

"But sometimes people make decisions for various reasons. So I respect his personal decision," he said. "But I will tell you when we look at San Antonio, and Austin and Houston, all across the state of Texas, I think you will find that mayors and Democratic mayors are doing an exceptional job across this country."

**Emily Foxhall** contributed to this story.

<link rel="canonical" href="https://www.texastribune.org/2023/09/22/dallas-mayor-eric-johnson-republican/">

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Continued **Party** Page 1

Dallas voters to make their voices heard by registering to speak at Wednesday's City Council meeting. Dallas County Democratic Party Chair Kardal Coleman has registered to speak at the meeting, and will be publicly calling on the mayor to resign.

Party Chair Kardal Coleman issued the following statement:

"Mayor Eric Johnson's switch to the Republican Party is nothing short of an insult to Dallas voters. The Texas Republican Party proved it is the party of corruption and crime by voting not to impeach Attorney General Ken Paxton. Johnson's decision to join that party is an embarrassment to him and to our community. Mayor Johnson has run out on his job, he's run out on the voters that elected him, and now his time has run out. Eric Johnson must resign now."



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## HEALTH

### Is it the flu, a cold or COVID?

Could your cough, runny nose or body aches indicate it's the flu, a cold or COVID?

These three sicknesses have at least two things in common:

- They are contagious respiratory illnesses.
- They share similar symptoms, making it hard to know what exactly a person has.

"It's difficult to differentiate the symptoms between a cold, the flu and COVID because many symptoms overlap," says Cristina Tamez, MD, a pediatrician at Parkland's Hatcher Station Health Center. Cold symptoms are typically milder than flu symptoms. If you have a cold, you typically have a runny or stuffy nose and don't run the risk of serious health problems."

Symptoms of a cold tend to appear more gradually, whereas flu symptoms show up abruptly. Common symptoms the flu and COVID share:

- fatigue
- cough
- stuffy nose
- sore throat

And what about COVID? Compared to the flu, those with COVID may take longer to show symptoms and may be contagious for a longer period, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). There are also overlapping warning signs between flu and COVID, varying from no symptoms to severe symptoms. "The best way to know what you have is to get tested," said Dr. Tamez.

"We learned a lot throughout the pandemic about washing our hands, covering our cough or sneeze, wearing a mask in big crowds or public areas and keeping our distance." Another way to help reduce the spread is to get vaccinated.

"There's this ongoing myth that the flu vaccine makes you sick. The flu vaccine contains a dead virus so it can't give you the flu," Dr. Tamez said. "It takes two to three weeks for the flu vaccine to take effect." The flu vaccine works similarly to the COVID vaccine, she noted. It doesn't stop someone from getting the flu; rather it helps reduce the severity of the symptoms, complications and chances of someone ending up in the hospital if they get the flu.

"Getting the COVID or flu vaccine is like putting on your seatbelt. Just because you have your seatbelt on doesn't mean you won't be in a car accident, but it does help reduce injury and even save lives," said Dr. Tamez.

You can get vaccinated at select Parkland neighborhood-based health centers during Walk-In Wednesdays, from 9 to 11 a.m. and from 1 to 4 p.m. on a first-come, first-served basis. Parkland also offers a Mobile Immunization Van that community event organizers can request to roll up to gatherings so everyone can get vaccinated to protect others. Visit [www.parklandhealth.org/yourteam](http://www.parklandhealth.org/yourteam) to find a clinic nearest you and for more information on how to request the immunization van. And remember, our team is here for your team!

## Quinn Minute

# Old sayings

By Rix Quinn

Remember that old saying "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush?"

I thought about this today while chewing fried chicken. I don't know what other birds are worth, but I had to pay for the chicken.

Seriously, the quote goes back to ancient times. Bird hunters reasoned that one bird already caught

guaranteed dinner, while two birds uncaught ("in the bush") meant more work plus the possibility of failure.

Why did the hunters want those other fowls too? Maybe they expected guests for dinner, or maybe they just wanted to see if birds in the heather flock together.

See, you never can tell

what our silly prehistoric pals thought! Back then, they drew stuff on their walls and called it art.

Today we call it graffiti. But if somebody famous sketched it, we call either a "mural" or "wallpaper."

The birdie saying is much like another one claiming, "The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence."

This means either (1) people always want what they can't get, or (2) the neighbor buys better fertilizer.

What's the lesson here? I'm guessing it is this:

"If you see two birds in a bush surrounded by green grass on the other side of a fence, don't try to catch them, because they are probably in a zoo."

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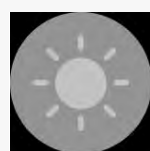
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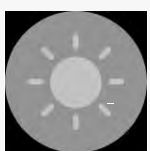
## SPORTS/NEWS PAGE

## 7 Day Weather Forecast for DFW

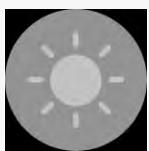
Thursday, Sept. 28

H - 94°  
L - 76°

Friday, Sept. 29

H - 95°  
L - 75°

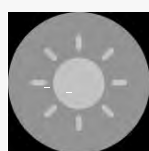
Saturday, Sept. 30

H - 94°  
L - 74°

Sunday, Oct 1

H - 93°  
L - 75°

Monday, Oct. 2

H - 92°  
L - 76°

Tuesday, Oct. 3

H - 92°  
L - 73°

Wednesday, Oct. 4

H - 88°  
L - 72°

## Essay: Fifth Ward, Houston, 1952 — One Girl's Story

Continued RUTH Part 4

Intuitive and smart, she did the only thing she could to make sure we had as much as possible: she went to work as a maid.

Yet in spite of all that she was doing for us, the more I saw of city life, the more I began to feel that my mother's old-fashioned standards and lack of style stymied our enjoyment of Houston. For me, her plainness was a growing source of irritation and embarrassment. Perhaps I transferred onto her the embarrassment I felt about being a misfit because of my clothes, speech, and manners, but she was definitely a contrast to the mothers of my schoolmates, who dressed stylishly and wore makeup and modern hairdos. Mama did not seem to understand or care that the city required a new approach. My sister-in-law Erma Mae, however, was different.

Erma Mae was the epitome of what the modern woman could be: attractive, fun-loving, forceful, direct, independent of mind, and ambitious. Erma said that women could do their own thinking. Education was the key, and her girls were going to be educated so that they could be successful in their own right. As devoted as Erma was to my brother Elbert, she did not believe marriage required blind subservience. She was rearing Elma, Lawanna, and Beverly to be self-assured girls who set high expectations for themselves. I wanted to emulate Erma.

I don't know if Mama was aware that I was discrediting all that she stood for. Perhaps I showed it in the flip answers I learned to give, in the airs I adopted in imitation of others, or in the way that I idolized Elma and Erma Mae. I began to develop a manner of speaking that was affected and stilted, reminiscent of actresses we saw in the movies. I later modeled my speech after that of Tallulah Bankhead, a prominent actress at the time. I was openly dismissive of practices that evoked country

living. It certainly did not occur to me until years later that Mama would have had more appealing clothing and a more polished appearance if she had not put our needs ahead of hers.

I continued to do well at Atherton Elementary School, making perfect grades and following rules for student behavior and good work habits. As a result of the continuous positive feedback I was receiving, my confidence grew. At first I feigned confidence, but eventually my comfort with who I was became real. I met friends, broadened my experiences, and began to realize the potential to achieve beyond what my parents imagined for me. Watching Elbert and Erma every day, hearing how they conceived of the future, made me think that their vision might be within reach. Too young and inexperienced to understand how to piece it all together, I nevertheless absorbed Erma's insistence that the future of girls would be different if we would only take charge of it.

A couple of years after we had become accustomed to our first Houston neighborhood, Daddy decided to move us to another implausibly crowded lot, on Sam Wilson Street, just east of Lockwood. There, the landlord, an aspiring real estate magnate named Mr. Woodrow, had constructed or moved to the site a number of shabby houses for which he exacted unreasonable rents. My new neighborhood was like the Lee Street area without the railroad yard or the Dew Drop Inn—rows and rows of poorly kept wooden houses that families rented from landlords unable to maintain them properly. Aunt Aggie, the youngest of Mama's sisters, moved into a house in the rear of ours. Though just a few blocks from Lee Street, this home was much farther from Atherton School, where I remained enrolled through the fifth grade. On Sam

Wilson Street, we created a new compound with a different extended family. Mama's warnings about outsiders remained in force, and Aunt Aggie's children substituted for Elma and her sisters.

The Mount Lebanon Baptist Church, located on Lockwood two blocks from our new house, had welcomed Daddy as an assistant minister. My discerning mother liked the pastor there, the Rev. Emmitt Thompson, a tall, handsome, and well-spoken young minister who was well educated and dedicated to keeping children interested in the church. All of the pastors I had known before were older, self-taught, and not interested in young church members. I admired Reverend Thompson not only for his attentiveness but for his youth and appealing way of preaching. The bombastic preachers of Grapeland were all about form, but he delivered intelligent, well-composed, thoughtful messages and was among the most charismatic speakers I had ever heard because he did not instill fear about going to hell but, rather, spoke in moving ways about how we should live up to our values. He seemed so perfect that I hoped I would be as lucky as Mrs. Thompson and find a husband with his temperament, good looks, and style. He was a great contrast to my father.

Some time before, Daddy had been "called" to the ministry. He felt that God had revealed to him his duty to follow and disseminate the word of God. Studying the Bible, he apprenticed with ministers and was eventually ordained. Neither a gifted orator nor a commanding singer, he was somewhat awkward in the pulpit. When my father read from the Bible, his delivery lacked feeling, the words stumbling from his mouth with little effect or

Continue Ruth Page 6

## Usher Set to Headline 2024 Super Bowl Halftime Show

The appearance will mark Usher's second appearance at the Super Bowl, following his 2011 performance alongside the Black Eyed Peas.

By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent@StacyBrownMedia



Photo Credit: NNPA Files

Grammy-winning artist Usher plans to dazzle hundreds of millions of fans as he takes center stage for the highly anticipated 2024 Super Bowl halftime show. On February 11, 2024, the renowned performance will occur at the Allegiant Stadium in Paradise, Nevada, just outside the famed Las Vegas Strip.

Kim Kardashian surprised Usher with a phone call to announce that he would be headlining at X (previously known as Twitter).

The appearance will mark Usher's second appearance at the Super Bowl, following his 2011 performance alongside the Black Eyed Peas. Rihanna headlined the event

last year and revealed her pregnancy to A\$AP Rocky during her unforgettable performance.

"It's an honor of a lifetime to finally check a Super Bowl performance off my bucket list. I can't wait to bring the world a show unlike anything else they've seen from me before," Usher said in a statement.

He extended his gratitude, saying, "Thank you to the fans and everyone who made this opportunity happen. I'll see you real soon."

Jay-Z, whose Roc Nation company is returning to produce the halftime show for the fifth consecutive year, also commended Usher. "Usher is the ultimate artist and showman. Ever since

his debut at 15, he's been charting his own unique course. Beyond his flawless singing and exceptional choreography, Usher bares his soul," Jay-Z stated.

He added, "His remarkable journey has propelled him to one of the grandest stages in the world. I can't wait to see the magic." The rapper, 53, and Usher, 44, have previously collaborated on tracks including "Hot Tottie," "Anything," and "Best Thing."

Super Bowl LVIII will be broadcast live on CBS on February 11, 2024. The iconic halftime show generally draws hundreds of millions of viewers, making it one of the most sought-after platforms in music.

Continued Fraud Page 1

in securing financing and executing lucrative deals. Judge Engoron's ruling, which came just days before the commencement of the non-jury trial in AG James' lawsuit, represents a profound repudiation of Trump's carefully curated public persona as a wealthy and astute real estate magnate who successfully transitioned into

a political figure. Beyond the realm of mere self-promotion, Engoron determined that Trump, along with his company and key executives, consistently disseminated false information on their annual financial statements. According to the judge, these actions resulted in tangible benefits such as favorable loan terms and reduced insurance premiums, thereby crossing the

threshold of legality. The judge dismissed Trump's claim that a disclaimer on the financial statements absolved him of wrongdoing.

While Manhattan prosecutors had contemplated pursuing criminal charges for the same misconduct, they ultimately opted against it, leaving Attorney General James to bring forth the civil lawsuit and seek penalties that could

disrupt Trump's and his family's business activities within the state.

Engoron's ruling, rendered during the summary judgment phase of the case, addresses the central allegation in James' lawsuit. However, six other claims still await resolution, with Engoron scheduled to preside over a non-jury trial beginning on October 2, during which he will determine both the

merits of these claims and any potential penalties. Attorney General James is pursuing fines of \$250 million and a ban on Trump's business operations in New York, his home state. Engoron has noted that the trial's duration might extend into December.

Trump's legal team had requested the dismissal of the case, a request that was denied by the judge. Their argument rested on the

remise that James lacked the legal authority to initiate the lawsuit due to the absence of evidence showing harm to the public from Trump's actions. Additionally, they argued that the statute of limitations barred a number of the lawsuit's allegations.

"The documents here clearly contain fraudulent valuations that defendants used in business," Engoron wrote.





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# Dallas ISD fall break schedule

BY THE HUB



Photo Credit: The HUB

Dallas ISD is incorporating a fall break for students and campus team members this school year. Campuses will be closed Thursday, Oct. 12 and Friday, Oct. 13. Following the break, teachers will return on Monday, Oct. 16 for a professional development day, while students return to campuses Tuesday,

Oct. 17. Fall break also coincides with the district's Fair Days. Parents, guardians, and students are encouraged to contact their respective schools to determine their specific Fair Day. The State Fair of Texas implemented a minor's policy for 2023, requiring all aged 17 and under be accompanied by

a parent, guardian, or chaperone over the age of 21 effective at 5 p.m. daily. Any student who exhibits illegal and/or dangerous behavior will be escorted out of State Fair grounds to ensure this special opportunity is a safe and fun experience. Additional information can be found on the Fair's website.

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Continued Ruth Page 5

meaning. His singing was just as unrefined. He would talk halfway through the hymns and hit the especially important notes in a veritable half-shout, distracting listeners from the fact that he was off-key.

A Black Baptist minister of that era who could not sing had little prospect for a promising career. However, being called to the ministry was a venerated tradition in the Black Baptist church, so people tolerated these limitations. Reverend Thompson invited Daddy to serve in a quasi-official capacity as an assistant minister, which meant he was able to be seated in the pulpit every Sunday. I mentioned to my mother that it was strange to see Daddy in the pulpit, occasionally reading the scripture, and cheering on Reverend Thompson when he preached, given what we saw of him at home, ordering her around and inflicting punishment on his children. She chastised me for speaking ill of him and told me that I was never to do so to others. Still, I began secretly to question the legitimacy of my father's calling. How could a man of God fall so short in his personal life and still have the audacity to teach others how to be godly?

Continue Ruth Final Part 10/5/2023

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